

REMARKS

In response to the notice of allowance dated January 28, 2008, Applicants added claims 75-103, which correspond to original claims 1-15 and 18-31 that were previously canceled. Claims 38, 41, 46, and 75 are independent claims. Applicants thank the Examiner for the previous allowance of claims 38-50 and 69-74.

The prosecution of the pending claims has focused largely on the structure of the wedge-shaped, engageable elements. It was not until an examiner interview held on October 12, 2007 that the Applicants realized there was a misunderstanding as to how the Examiner was applying the cited references to various elements recited in the claims. Once this misunderstanding was addressed, the Applicants and the Examiner were able to agree to the previous amendment resulting in the allowance of claims 38-50 and 69-74.

Now that there is agreement as to how to characterize the wedge-shaped elements to properly distinguish the cited art, Applicants are re-introducing original claim 1 as new claim 75, amended to recite these structures as in the allowed claims. Specifically, claim 75 recites that *the engageable side intersects an upper surface of the base and the non-engageable side extends from the base to the upper edge of the element*. Claim 1 was previously canceled only to promote the issuance of other claims, in light of a notice of allowability of claims 16-24, 26, 28 and 38-40, the allowability of which was later retracted. Applicants submit that claim 75 and all of its corresponding dependent claims are patentable over the cited art of record and supported by the specification and original claims. Applicants respectfully request continued examination of all the claims presented for examination and a Notice of Allowance.

CONCLUSION

The attorney of record below invites the Examiner to call with any questions regarding this matter, so that we can continue to advance the prosecution of this matter.

All fees due are being paid concurrently herewith on the Electronic Filing System (EFS) by way of Deposit Account authorization. Please apply all charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050, referencing Attorney Docket No. 05918-324001.

Applicant : Christopher M. Gallant et al.
Serial No. : 10/785,133
Filed : February 24, 2004
Page : 10 of 10

Attorney's Docket No.: 05918-324001 / VGCP No.
7020

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 8, 2008

/Brett A. Krueger/

Brett A. Krueger
Reg. No. 54,243

Fish & Richardson P.C.
225 Franklin Street
Boston, MA 02110
Telephone: (617) 542-5070
Facsimile: (617) 542-8906

21895481.doc